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ADD A LITTLE PEACH PIZZAZZ HOLIDAY PUNCH RECIPES {page 19}



INVESTIGATED
POLICE LOOKING INTO LILO REHAB INCIDENT DISH {page 17}



HALIFAX metro®
Wednesday, December 22, 2010
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Booth. Collision



▶ A Bridge Commission employee cleans up debris on the MacKay Bridge yesterday.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Bridge crash hospitalizes driver

A pickup truck smashed into a toll booth on the Dartmouth side of the MacKay Bridge yesterday morning. The 52-year-old male driver was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Enlisting a modern design

This isn't your grandfather's recruitment centre {page 4}

Christmas on the court

Holiday travel not a priority for newest Rainmen {page 22}

Blood bank to Haligonians: Lend us your arms

- Blood donors needed to meet urgent holiday demand in HRM: Canadian Blood Services
- Donation by appointment takes about an hour



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

There is always a strong need for blood donations during the holiday season, but the Canadian Blood Services is warning that this year's calendar is working against them even more.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a weekend, a time when blood is not collected. Paul Doucet, communications specialist for Canadian Blood Services, said this is causing a projected shortage because "platelets," key components of blood that are used in life-saving procedures and in the treatment of cancer patients, only has a five-day shelf-life.

"Our hospital patients need an ongoing fresh supply of platelets. We need donors to come in before those days especially ... to ensure we can meet demand of local hospital patients," he said.

Doucet said that, as of yesterday, hospitals are lacking about 500 units of blood for the next two weeks, about 60 per cent of the demand.

Not on an empty stomach

Paul Doucet said that you should ensure you're well hydrated before arriving at the blood-donation clinic. He recommended drinking lots of water and eating before giving blood.

He said blood donations are critically important for trauma patients, whose demand usually spikes over the holiday season.

The clinic, located at 1940 Gottingen St., is open today, tomorrow and Friday at select hours and will reopen on Dec. 27. You can also call 1-888-2-DONATE to find a mobile clinic in your area.

Doucet is asking people to find the time to make an appointment to donate blood.

"We're really hoping folks will think about blood donation as a wonderful thing to do over the holidays," he said. "It really does feel good to do this at this time of the year."


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Weather dampens oval's first full day

It was the first full day the Canada Games oval was open to the public and it turned out to be a wash.

Yesterday's wet weather forced the closure of the oval to public skates. The closure came less than a day after about 200 people came out for its grand opening on Monday night at the North Common.

The oval will be HRM's marquee venue for the 2011 Canada Winter Games, taking place from Feb. 11 to 27.

Right up until the opening of the games, the oval will host up to four public skating sessions a day, seven days a week. It's unknown whether the oval will be open today. ● METRO

Check before

The free skates and other programming are subject to conditions such as weather and ice maintenance, so check skatehrm.ca for updated schedules.

Hundreds of parkers dinged $50 a pop

It seems the message to not park on the street overnight isn't getting across to some people.

Through Sunday, close to 800 tickets have been issued since HRM's overnight winter parking ban took effect on Dec. 15.

The exact figure released yesterday is 795 — at $50 per ticket — sees at least $39,750 going to HRM coffers since the ban went into effect.

The fine jumps to $82.96 if the ticket isn't paid within 60 days.

The municipality said last week about 200 tickets were given out on the ban's first night.

Under the ban, any vehicle left on the street in the urban core between 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. could be hit with a ticket. ● PHILIP CROUCHER

For more local news, log on to metronews.ca

Truck driver slams into toll booths

Driver taken to hospital with serious injuries yesterday ◐ Cause of crash under investigation



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

A truck took out two toll booths on the MacKay Bridge early yesterday morning.

The crash happened just after 1:30 a.m. and a 52-year-old man was pulled from the wreck by firefighters and paramedics. He was rushed to the hospital with what appeared to be life-threatening injuries.

"There was extensive damage done to the vehicle so we're looking at whether alcohol and/or speed played a factor in the crash," said Theresa Rath, spokeswoman for Halifax Regional Police.

The pickup truck was heading to Halifax when it crashed. The bridge was closed to all Halifax-bound traffic until the debris was cleared by 7 a.m.

It took out lanes 12 and 13 — which were vacant — but there was someone working in the next lane at the time. No one, besides the driver, was injured.

Alison MacDonald, with the Bridge Commission, said as far as traffic tie-ups go, the timing of the accident wasn't so bad.

"We're not seeing the rush hours we would see normally."



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

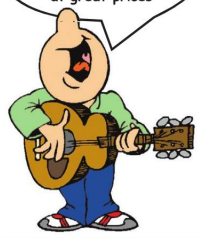
▶ A Bridge Commission employee clears out some glass after a pickup truck smashed into a toll booth on the Dartmouth side of the MacKay Bridge yesterday morning. The bridge was closed to Halifax-bound traffic for several hours.

1 news

On the web at metronews.ca

Why leaks, Wiki and otherwise, are critical for a functioning democracy. More at metronews.ca/spindoctor

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Forces open new recruitment centre

CFRC Halifax the first in a new model to be rolled out across Canada

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



Commodore Dan MacKeigan attends a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre on Mumford Road yesterday.

Halifax's new Canadian Forces Recruitment Centre is quite different from the one Commodore Daniel MacKeigan walked into years ago.

"It was more of a bureaucratic-type affair," said MacKeigan. "You lined up and got your medicals often like you see in the old war movies, with everyone shuffling along stations."

CFRC Halifax, located at 6960 Mumford Rd., is the first in the Forces' new "signature concept" for recruitment centres across the country. It replaces the current offices located in the Scotia Square mall.

"(The new offices are) more welcoming and more modern, particularly. You don't walk into some stodgy bureaucratic environment that reminds you of an old-fashioned bank," said MacKeigan. "It's now more of a sales experience."

MacKeigan likened the new recruitment philosophy to selling cars. When people see an advertisement for a car, they want to arrive at the dealership and see the same thing.

"I'm recreating that same positive experience about someone who wants to join the armed forces, or is thinking about it."

The new facility opened yesterday, with Senator Fred Dickson cutting the ribbon on behalf of Defence Minister Peter MacKay. MacKay, who was originally scheduled to attend the opening, was at CFB Trenton awaiting the repatriation of Cpl. Steve Martin, who was killed by a improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on Saturday.

ALEX BOUTILIER

The newbie

Rod Horner, a 29-year old Halifax native, was the first recruit sworn in at the new facility yesterday. He'll soon start 13 weeks of basic training, working towards a communications position with the navy.

N.S. eyes review of physician contracts

The province wants to re-examine the way 545 specialist physicians are compensated.

The Department of Health released a report yesterday on Nova Scotia's "academic funding programs" — essentially contracts designed to attract and retain physicians who provide patient care but also teach at the Dalhousie Medical School or conduct research.

The report, conducted by Deloitte, found that over a three-year period from 2006 and 2009, spending on those programs increased by 16 per cent to $173 million. The report states more accountability is needed in reporting value for money invested in the system.

Health Minister Maureen MacDonald said it's a matter of measuring returns on investment.

"The question is what are you getting for the payments and how do you quantify that … to ensure you're getting good value for dollar?" she said.

Jane Brooks, president of Doctors Nova Scotia, said she's confident the province and physicians can improve the current system.

"We need to be accountable and transparent and make sure we're providing the best possible patient care we can," she said.

"We're happy to be sitting with the Department of Health and addressing common concerns."

ALEX BOUTILIER

News in brief

Man with knife sought

CRIME. Police are looking for a knife-carrying man who they say tried to rob the Old Triangle bar early yesterday morning.

Halifax Regional Police say the man was wearing a mask and gloves, and after entering just before 1 a.m., threatened an employee with a knife. There were no injuries.

Games tap Great Big Sea

CONCERT. Great Big Sea will rock Halifax during one of the free 2011 Canada Games concerts at Celebration Square on Feb. 19.

METRO



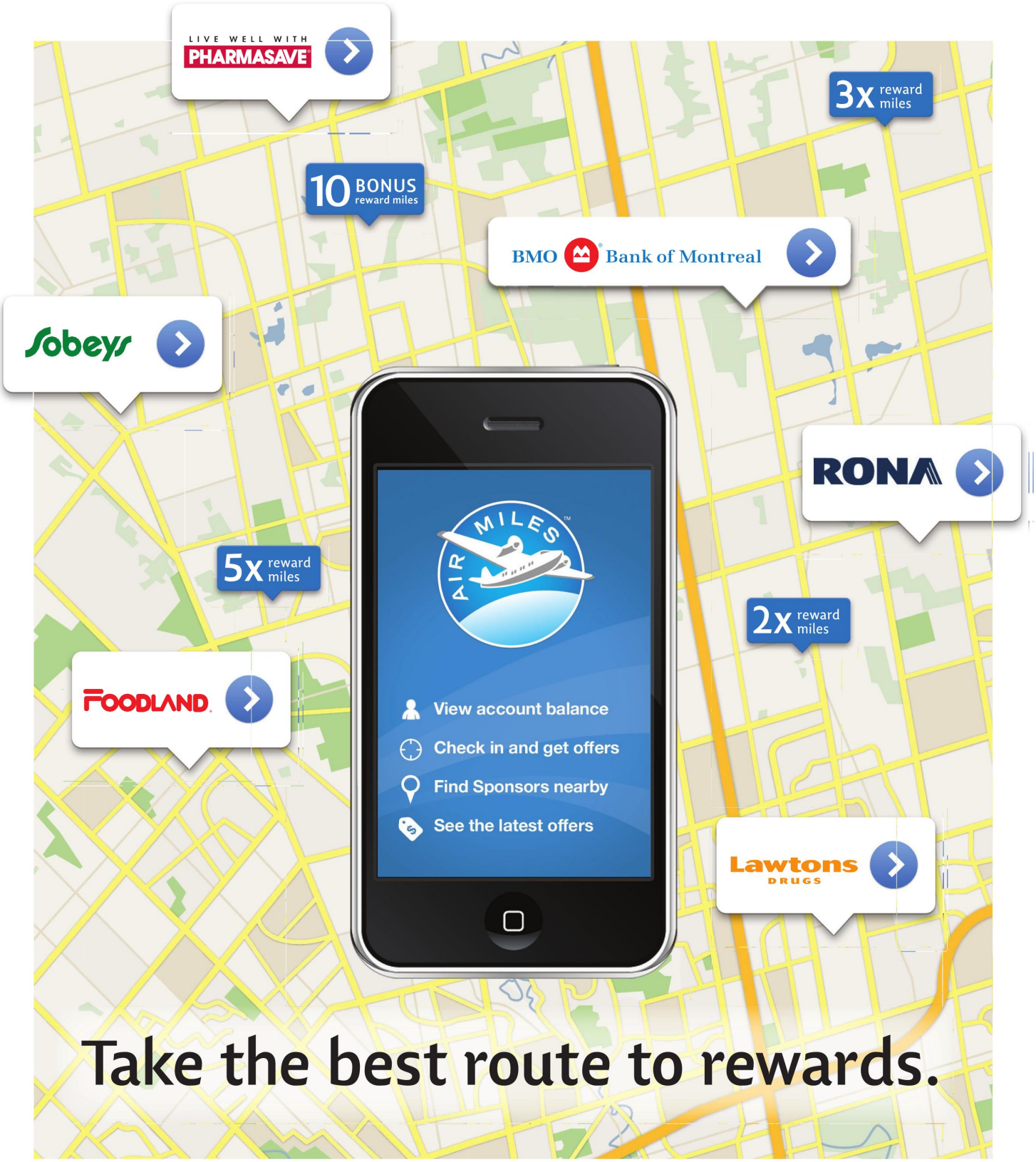
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BRIAN MCINNIS/CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ A truck drives through a flooded road leading to the Prince Edward Island National Park in Brackley, P.E.I, yesterday.

Third storm this month batters coast

Environment Canada predicting storm surge of between 2.6 and three metres along the eastern coast

The third major storm to slam into the East Coast this month caused coastal flooding yesterday that submerged roads and wharfs in eastern New Brunswick.

Around the Atlantic region, powerful wind gusts left thousands without electricity and a combination of wind and heavy seas sidelined ferry traffic between Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

In New Brunswick, the Emergency Measures Organization said much of the province's eastern coastline from Shediac to Miramichi was experiencing flooding and some coastal roads were closed.

In Cape Breton, high-sided vehicles and motorcycles were advised to stay off the Seal Island Bridge because of strong winds gusting up to 100 km/h.

Ferry delays

▶ About 1,500 passengers with reservations may be affected by the delays if the ferries between Cape Breton and Newfoundland can't leave until Thursday.

The same types of vehicles were kept off of the Confederation Bridge to Prince Edward Island.

The high seas and strong winds combined to keep ferries between Newfoundland and Cape Breton in harbour. Marine Atlantic says its ferries are tied up to avoid the storm system.

Tara Laing, a spokeswoman for the ferry service, said in an interview that more than 200 tractor-trailers — including some Canada Post vehicles with Christmas packages and mail — are delayed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sea temps higher than normal

Forecasters with the Canadian Coast Guard are expecting a lighter than normal year for ice off the East Coast.

Water temperatures in the region are one to 2.5 degrees above normal, acting Supt. Fergus Francey said at a briefing yesterday.

Francey said they cannot predict how much lighter ice cover will be in the major shipping lanes, or the region's large bays and straits, because of anomalies including cold snaps or thaws.

"Normally, we know that ice will form and should stay formed up until the end of February, providing we don't have a warming trend," he said.

"After that, any ice that forms in the night usually doesn't last the daytime because the sun's too strong."

In a bad year, the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence is usually covered with ice that averages one to two metres in thickness.

Francey said he has seen it thicker in places.

"I've been out there and I've seen ridges up to six metres in thickness," he said.

"With that much ice, if you have any wind from any direction it will cause additional pressure and that's really what causes ships to get beset."

Trend?

▶ Forecasters aren't sure whether it's an unusual year or part of a longer-term trend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bi-Weekly payments every two weeks commencing on the contract date. ^ Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. The new 2011 Ford Edge SE FWD 7.4L/100km hwy, 11.2L/100km city^ is not available for sale at the time of publication. Please see your Ford Dealer for availability. ▾ Purchase a new 2010 Ford Ranger SuperCab Sport 4x2, F-150 SuperCab XLT 4x4 for $13,699/$23,799 after Total Manufacturer Rebate of ($6,000/$7,500) deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Eligible customers may pay $23,999 on 2010 Ford F-150 SuperCab XLT 4x4 when adding plus taking advantage of Recycle Your Ride $3,000, Retire Your Ride $300, Ford Credit Cash (when financing) $1,500, and Costco Incentive of $1,000 (see below for details). 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To qualify for the "Car Heaven Program", customer must turn in a 2003 model year or older vehicle in running condition which has been registered and insured for the last 6 months to an authorized recycler. ▪ Costco Incentive: $1,000 Costco Incentive is available on most 2010 and 2011 Ford vehicles (excluding Shelby GT500, Raptor, F-650 & F-750 and 2011 Fiesta S models) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). This offer is rainchecklable. The new vehicle must be delivered and/or factory -ordered from your participating Ford Motor Company of Canada ("Ford") dealer within the Offer Period. Offer is only valid at participating dealers, is subject to vehicle availability, and may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. Only one (1) offer may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) Eligible Vehicle. up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales, per Costco Membership Number. Offer is transferable to persons domiciled with an eligible Costco member. 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All rights reserved. ^Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the [2010] [2011] [F-150 4x4 4.6L V8 6-speed Auto/Ranger 4x2 4.0-V6 5-Speed Auto] [Edge FWD SST 3.5L V6 6-Speed Auto] Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits.

Condom use still wrong: Vatican

Statement says comments were misunderstood ◗ Pope still opposes condoms for contraception

The Vatican yesterday sought to clarify the Pope's controversial comments about condoms and HIV, saying he by no means suggested condom use could be condoned as a means of avoiding pregnancy.

The Vatican's moral watchdog, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, issued a statement saying some commentators had misrepresented the pope's remarks in a book-length interview released last month entitled Light of the World.

The Vatican statement stressed that Benedict was not talking about sex between husband and wife or condom use as a form of contraception.

His comments in Light of the World had signalled to many a shift in the Pope's thinking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Comments

Reports of the Pope's comments had been greeted with relief among AIDS activists working on the front lines in Africa.

- Benedict said that condom use in some cases, such as for male prostitutes, could be a first step toward a more moral and responsible human sexuality.

Europe. Chaos



▶ Hundreds of people queue outside St Pancras Station in London for the Eurostar train to France yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LEWIS WHYLD

Stranded in London

Major delays and cancellations persisted at European airports, leaving thousands stranded across Europe as Christmas approaches. Heathrow Airport told infuriated passengers it won't restore full service until tomorrow.

Teens charged in alleged sex assault

Two 15-year-old boys are facing charges after a young woman was allegedly raped while she was passed out at a Calgary light-rail transit station.

Police say the assault happened early Sunday morning after train service had ended for the day.

Staff Sgt. Dave Louie, a police spokesman, says two boys were at the station platform in the city's southwest when they came across the woman.

Louie says one of them acted as a lookout while the second suspect allegedly attacked the female.

The assault was not caught on a surveillance system that monitors LRT stations 24 hours a day, but a struggle between the woman and one of the suspects was.

The boys have been remanded in custody until their next court appearance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assange complains about leak

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is complaining that someone leaked a Swedish police report on his alleged sexual offences.

"The leak of the police report ... was clearly designed to undermine my bail application. It was timed to come up on the desk of the judge that morning," Assange said in an interview.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wanted

Swedish officials want to question Assange about allegations stemming from encounters with two women in Sweden. They accused him of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion. Assange has not been charged.

Cancer faker put under house arrest

Bogus causes

- Leeder's case made waves in the northern Ontario city of Timmins, with some people last month saying they couldn't believe a local woman was charged in a cancer scam so soon after Ashley Kirilow of Burlington, Ont., pleaded guilty to a similar ruse.
- And just weeks after that, Toronto police charged a man with fraud after he allegedly pretended to have terminal brain cancer. Police say friends of Christopher Gordon, 29, organized a fundraiser and collected $3,000.

A 21-year-old woman who faked cancer to defraud people in northern Ontario was handed six months of house arrest yesterday, with special provisions made after she told court she's pregnant.

Jessica Ann Leeder admitted in court last month that she defrauded coworkers at a Ford dealership of more than $5,000. She pretended to have lung and stomach cancer for close to a year, while accepting support, including money, from the community.

Although Leeder faced a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison, the Crown indicated before yesterday's sentencing hearing that Leeder would not face significant jail time.

"I'm very sorry for the actions I've done and I want the chance to make things right," Leeder, who had pleaded guilty to fraud over $5,000, told Judge Martin Lambert yesterday.

The judge noted Leeder spent "five hard days" in jail and took the guilty plea into account, saying it showed remorse.

CONTRIBUTED/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Jessica Ann Leeder, shown in this undated photo, was sentenced to six months of house arrest yesterday.

Leeder told the court she is pregnant — the Crown said it could not verify that claim — and the sentence was tailored to the medical needs of an expectant mother.

For the first three months Leeder is under 24-hour house arrest and can only leave the home for medical emergencies, except for Saturdays when she can leave from 9 a.m. to midnight for personal business. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Teen, 15, charged in stabbings

Police say a 15-year-old boy is facing assault charges after a triple stabbing in Moncton, N.B., last week. RCMP say a 24-year-old man and a 22-year-old man remain in hospital from injuries they suffered in the attack early Friday morning.

Another man, also 24, was treated in hospital and released the same day.

Police say the 15-year-old is scheduled to appear in youth court in Moncton today. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Formation didn't help kayakers

Three kayakers exploring a river in Africa were paddling together in a defensive formation designed to ward off crocodile attacks when one of the massive beasts came from behind, ripping their leader from his boat and hauling him beneath the water.

The two Americans who survived — Ben Stookesberry and Chris Korbulic — said Tuesday on NBC's Today show that the formation was designed to make them appear too large to attack, and had served them well in waters considered more dangerous.

Stookesberry said the first he knew of the attack was hearing Hendri Coetzee of South Africa say, "Oh, my God." Then the experienced guide was gone. His body has not been found.

The kayakers were on the Lukuga River in Congo for a monthlong expedition documenting unexplored whitewater.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Political. Football



▶ Larry Smith announces his candidacy in a Montreal riding for the next federal election as Natural Resources Minister Christian Paradis, rear, looks on.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/PAUL CHIASSON

Ex-CFLer tackles politics

Newly appointed Senator Larry Smith, a former Alouette, is the Tories' hope for wresting the Montreal riding of Lac-Saint-Louis away from the Liberals and helping them in their push for a majority government.

Daughter weary of scandals

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's daughter has said in a magazine interview she feels bitter about the sex scandals that have engulfed her father. Barbara Berlusconi told the Italian editions of Vanity Fair that she believes the scandals have had an impact on the prime minister's public and private life.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kosovo PM calls for inquiry

Kosovo's prime minister said yesterday he wants an independent investigation to "dispel the mist" surrounding allegations he led a gang that murdered detainees to sell their kidneys.

Hashim Thaci told The Associated Press in an interview he has "nothing to hide."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada ranks high for cancer survival

U.K.-initiated study looked at four cancers, six developed countries

A comparison of cancer survival rates in six developed countries puts Canada in the top three, alongside Australia and Sweden, and ahead of Norway, Denmark and the U.K.

The study, initiated in the United Kingdom and published online yesterday in The Lancet, examined survival rates for breast, lung, colorectal and ovarian cancer in 12 jurisdictions in the six countries.

"The main reason to look at these countries in relation to us is that they're countries of comparable wealth and very good quality information on cancer incidence, mortality and survival," said Terrence Sullivan, president and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario.

"The value for us is really to see how we're doing as a benchmark with the other jurisdictions."

Senior author Dr. Heather Bryant described the findings as good news for Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Data

The study involved data for 2.4 million adults diagnosed with primary cancer from 1995 to 2007. The four Canadian provinces that provided information were Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Ontario.

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Pace of inflation moderates

November reversed trend of rising inflation established since July

The pace of inflation in Canada eased to an annual rate of two per cent last month as the prices of most consumer goods either saw a moderation in growth or outright declines from last year.

After a surprising spurt in October to an annualized rate of 2.4 per cent, inflation as measured by the consumer price index now appears headed back to moderate levels.

And November's figures from Statistics Canada also likely eliminated whatever concern Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney might have had that keeping interest rates at such historic lows much longer would trigger a sharp rise in prices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

November rates

(previous month in brackets)

- Newfoundland and Labrador **2.2** (3)
- Prince Edward Island **1.2** (2.3)
- Nova Scotia **2.2** (2.9)
- New Brunswick **1.4** (1.8)
- Quebec **1.1** (1.4)
- Ontario **3** (3.4)
- Manitoba **1.1** (1.2)
- Saskatchewan **2** (2.1)
- Alberta **0.1** (1.2)
- British Columbia **2.2** (2.4)

Skin. A-ma-rink



▶ Victoria Eisermann, a campaigner from PETA, is chased by ice rink security as she demonstrates as a nearly naked fox in London yesterday.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETA fox bares skin

Demonstrators took to the ice rink to highlight their campaign against wearing animal skins. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) argues that the fur-trade business causes unnecessary suffering to animals.

Monitoring of oilsands slammed

A high-level advisory panel has told Ottawa and Alberta to put politics aside and set up a world-class environmental monitoring system for the Alberta oilsands.

But within hours of the release of the panel's report urging the two governments to iron out their jurisdictional issues, there were already signs of federal-provincial friction.

In Ottawa, federal Environment Minister John Baird said he would start implementing the panel's recommendations immediately. But in Edmonton, Premier Ed Stelmach suggested Alberta should take the lead. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS



"There is clearly a lack of leadership and co-ordination"

ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL, OILSANDS ADVISORY PANEL CHAIR

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

DOLLAR	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft	OIL	TSX
– 0.11¢ (98.28¢ US)	$4.059 (– 17.8¢) Gold contracts $1,388.80 (+ $2.70)	+ 45¢ US ($89.82 US)	+ 171.87 (13,365.15)

Minimum wage up in Quebec

Quebec is set to have the fourth-highest provincial minimum wage in the country after announcing yesterday the regular hourly rate will increase by 15 cents per hour to $9.65 on May 1.

Labour Minister Lise Theriault also said employees earning tips will get an extra 10 cents or $8.35 per hour.

292,000
Labour Minister Lise Theriault noted that about 292,000 workers, especially women, will benefit from the increase.

Ontario has the highest minimum wage in the country at $10.25 per hour, followed at $10 by Newfoundland and Labrador along with Nunavut.

Quebec's new rate matches the one set by Nova Scotia last spring when its rate increased from $8.60 per hour.

Theriault said many factors were considered in setting the new level, including the precarious economic situation and the fact that these workers have very modest revenues.

Since 2002, the province's minimum wage has increased 30 per cent, while the consumer price index has grown by 13 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS







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STUFF THIS RESEARCH IN A STOCKING

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN



'Tis a few days before Christmas and the Grinch is on the prowl.

Turns out the Grinch is a team at Simon Fraser University that has published the following anti-Christmas research: "Identity moderates the effects of Christmas displays on mood, self-esteem, and inclusion."

According to the professors and their grad student Grinch accomplices, their research shows that "the pervasive presence of Christmas displays in December makes people who do not celebrate Christmas feel like they don't belong, and it harms their emotional well-being."

For those of us struggling to breathe under a seasonal avalanche of Bing Crosby, this is nothing new, but the closer you look at the actual experiment, the more you have to ask: Don't these guys have anything better to do?

Here's what they did — they put one group of students in a lab decorated with a 12-inch Christmas tree and another group in a lab with no tree. Then they asked them how they felt.

Subjects didn't know they were in a study on the psychological effects of Christmas trees, but were asked to fill out a questionnaire about their mood.

Moods varied depending on the presence of the tree and the background of the respondents. In the presence of the tree, Sikh and Buddhist respondents felt less sure about themselves and felt excluded from the university. Christian students reported a more positive mood.

Putting aside questions about the research (maybe 12-inch plastic trees are culturally depressing. Maybe Sikh and Buddhist students require much bigger trees to feel good?), this just encourages the brand of self-righteousness that blights the yuletide season annually.

Some killjoy kicks Christmas out of the mall in case someone might feel excluded.

And now they've got research to back them up. "Studies show ..." they'll proclaim, ignoring the fact it's one study and one tree.

I wonder what would happen if the team put its subjects through the Halloween test. Or the Thanksgiving test.

At some level, they're all religious festivals, but they are also festivals.

I'm in favour of festivals. Thanks to multiculturalism, we keep adding them to the calendar: Hanukkah; Kwanzaa; Diwali; Narooz. If we keep this up, we can have a parade every day of the year. And how good is that?

The point is to use festivals to include people, not exclude them. We all believe different things, but if there's one belief that unites us all, it's simply this: Festivals are fun.

So, without prejudice, I offer the following greeting: Merry Christmas! (And happy holidays to everyone, even professors).

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Your Christmas forecast

Worth mentioning

Canadians dreaming of a white Christmas will likely get their wish, unless they live in the Maritimes or British Columbia.

Environment Canada senior climatologist David Phillips says much of the country will be wrapped in a white blanket on Christmas morning.

It could be the whitest Christmas ever in London and Sarnia, Ont.

London already has 48 centimetres while the Sarnia area was socked with 30-40 centimetres last week that stranded hundreds of motorists on Highway 402.

With nine centimetres on the ground and more on the way, Ottawa and Montreal are guaranteed a white Christmas.

Snow on the ground and below normal temperatures mean the Prairies already have their white Christmas in the bag, said Phillips.

There's just no chance for a white Christmas in Fredericton, Moncton, Halifax, Sydney, Charlottetown, St. John's, and Corner Brook, N.L., said Phillips.

Vancouver won't have a white Christmas, but there's only been an 11 per cent chance over 55 years that the city has one anyway, said Phillips. In Victoria and along the B.C. coast, there's little chance, he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

East Coast out of luck

MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES



Is a white Christmas important to you?

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Metro Minute with The Modern Men

If you like to dance, a night at the Paragon Theatre with Halifax-Toronto based band The Modern Men will surely fulfil your grooving needs.

Brothers Seth and Jonah Bernstein, alongside Fionn Chin-Yee, are promoting their first studio album, The Sensual Sounds Of THE MODERN MEN, at the Paragon tonight.

Infusing groove, disco, roots and snyth pop, the band is backed by a roster of East Coast talent including Tim-Jim Baker, formerly of Matt Mays and El Torpedo, LuLu Healy, Mike Farrington and Glenn Austin, some of whom may be joining the boys for tonight's show. Tickets are $12 and doors open at 9 p.m. ● METRO

CONTRIBUTED



▶ The Modern Men will play at the Paragon Theatre tonight.

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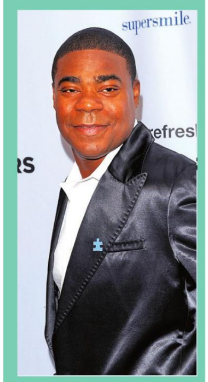
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2 scene

Scene in brief



30 Rock star Tracy Morgan is recovering from a kidney transplant.

A statement released Monday by Morgan's publicist says Morgan is doing well and taking much-needed time to recover from the surgery earlier this month.

The statement says the actor-comedian looks forward to returning to work on the New York-based NBC TV comedy after the holidays.

The 42-year-old Morgan plays the goofy star of a TV show on 30 Rock. Another 30 Rock cast member, Grizz Chapman, also received a new kidney earlier this year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hustling Miami video director earns praise

TODD PLITT/ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO, DISCOVERY CHANNEL



▶ Ben Bailey, host of the mobile game show, Cash Cab, stands next to a cab. The show is heading to Chicago next spring.

Cash Cab drives on to streets of Chicago

A game show on four wheels that is able to compete creatively with longtime studio favourites Jeopardy! and Wheel of Fortune

The Discovery Network show that turns a New York City cab ride into an instant game show is launching a spinoff version based in Chicago next spring. Comic Beth Melewski, a Second City cast member, will be behind the wheel.

The expansion comes after a triumphant year for Cash Cab. The series, itself a remake of a British TV's similar game based in London, won its second Daytime Emmy award for best game show. Ben Bailey won his first Emmy as best host.

"It's everything that people thought it would be. It's a validation and credit for hard work."
BEN BAILEY, CASH CAB

The idea for the Chicago version came when Bailey did a handful of tapings in Las Vegas, some that included entertainers such as Carrot Top playing for charity, and Discovery recognized how a new city with new people and new sites could give Cash Cab an entirely different feel, said Clark Bunting, Discovery's CEO.

Bunting is from Michigan, and he wanted to get the Midwest involved. Chicago, a city similar to New York with many cabs, seemed like it could work in a way that Los Angeles, for example, couldn't since there's relatively little cab use.

Melewski had the combination of smarts and knowledge of her city to work well in the cab, he said.

"Beth feels real-deal Chicago," he said. "You've got to have, for these shows at least, a feel for the city."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How it works

Contestants are asked a series of trivia questions that get increasingly harder as the ride goes on

- **Prize** They can win $25, $50 and $100 US in increments.
- **Going double** Baily often prompts players to go double-or-nothing, and one rider walked out with $6,200.
- **Limitations** Game ends when a player reaches the destination or gets three answers wrong.

Spider Man actor falls 30 feet on Broadway musical set

The troubled Broadway musical Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark was plagued by its fourth accident since it began previews last month when an actor performing an aerial stunt fell about 30 feet, fire officials said.

Firefighters were called to the Foxwoods Theatre in New York at about 10:45 p.m. Monday after the 31-year-old actor fell near the end of the latest preview performance.

He was taken to Bellevue Hospital with minor injuries, police said.

Police did not release the actor's name, but a performer in the show identified him as Christopher Tierney.

The performer spoke on condition of anonymity because the performer was not authorized to speak publicly about the accident.

A nurse at Bellevue Hospital said that a Christopher Tierney was admitted and was in stable condition, but would not provide details.

"Please pray with me for my friend Chris, my superhero who quietly inspires me everday.
NATALIE MENDOZA, ACTOR

Actress Natalie Mendoza, who plays Spider-Man's evil love interest Arachne was injured during the show's first preview last month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KATHY WILLENS/ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO



▶ A Spider-Man banner covering the front of Foxwoods Theater in New York.

Other side of Jackie O

When most of us think of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, we think back to the perfectly coifed first lady of the early '60s in a stylish shift, a string of pearls and a pill-box hat. Or the Jackie O of the next decade, the rich widow in huge sunglasses that shielded her from the world.

We probably don't think of a middle-aged working woman making her own photocopies, waiting in line to speak to the boss, or sitting cross-legged on the floor, arranging photos and puffing on cigarettes.

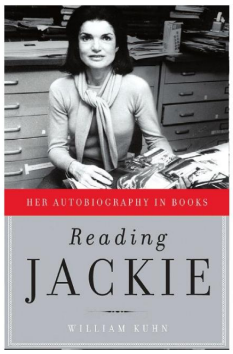
Yet this was her third act — the Jackie who joined the workforce in her mid-40s and spent nearly two decades as a book editor. By all accounts, it was one of the most satisfying periods of her life.

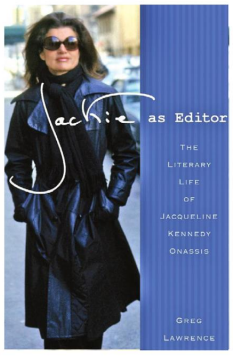
"She didn't do this just to have a job," says Bruce Tracy, a former colleague at the Doubleday publishing house. "She loved this. This is what she was passionate about." Suddenly, in a span of just a month, two new books are examining this little-known part of her life, giving readers a new slant on a woman who has fascinated Americans like no other in our history.

"Her editorial career was longer than her two marriages combined. It says more about who she was as a person, because this is something she actually chose to do." WILLIAM KUHN

Historian William Kuhn notes how women of Jackie's generation were taught to be great wives and great mothers, making it all the more striking that she would choose to learn a new career so relatively late in life. "It speaks to a kind of quiet feminism that she and other women of her generation had," he says.

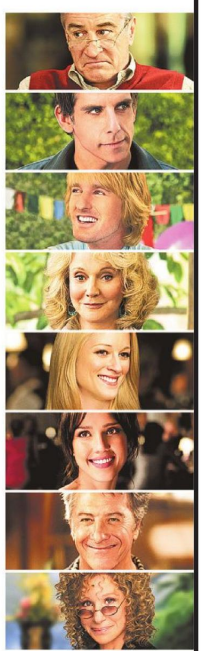
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Movie review See it twice | See it now | Worth watching | Yawn | Don't bother



Coens do justice to True Grit

True Grit
Genre: Western
Directors: Ethan Coen, Joel Coen
Stars: Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon and Hailee Steinfeld
●●●●½

Perhaps only artists as visionary and celebrated as The Coen Brothers would dare remake a film as beloved as True Grit and not be met with a tsunami of bile. The original 1969 picture (itself just re-released on Blu ray) starred John Wayne in the role that won him a much belated Oscar and was perhaps the last gasp of the classic, Ford/Hawks steeped mythic American western before the ultra-violent influence of the Italian "spaghetti western" consumed the genre.

Wisely, the Coen's have decided not to reproduce or "reinvent" it but rather go back to the source on which it was based, Charles Portis's novel. The resulting picture is nothing short of a joy to behold.

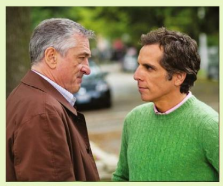
This time, instead of The Duke we have Jeff Bridges at his craggy, curmudgeonly best as lone wolf Marshall Rueben "Rooster" Cogburn, who when he's not defending his latest righteous kill in a court of law, sleeps his booze soaked self away in a cot behind a Chinese restaurant. Into his sagebrush dusted life comes 14 year old Mattie Ross (Hailee Steinfeld), who secures Cogburn to hunt the villain that killed her father and bring 'em back alive.

That's pretty much the story but narrative contrivance isn't what makes True Grit such a heart swelling, eye filling delight. It's a mixture of spot-on, giddy performances both lead and supporting; the delicate, lonely cinematography by Roger Deakins; Carter Burwell's aching and melancholy score and most importantly, it's The Coen's ace direction, milking mirth and rugged poetry out of every second of screen time. A gentle, rambling treasure of a film. ● CHRIS ALEXANDER



The King's Speech
Genre: Drama
Director: Tom Hooper
Stars: Colin Firth and Geoffrey Rush
●●●●●

You can't make this stuff up, this engaging, period bro-mance between the soon-to-be King George VI (Colin Firth) and a commoner (Geoffrey Rush) who is a speech therapist on the eve of the Second World War. But apparently it happened. The Duke of York, the second son of the late King George V, was saddled with a career threatening stammer that might not have mattered if the radio not just been invented or if his brother Edward hadn't just abdicated the throne to marry Wallis Simpson, thrusting him into the top job. Now he is expected to address a nation on the verge of war. Both rollicking fun and a nail-biter. ● ANNE BRODIE



Little Fockers
Genre: Comedy
Director: Paul Weitz
Stars: Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Owen Wilson
●

A once mildly amusing comedy is now an insufferable franchise brought to new lows with Little Fockers. Not since It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World have so many stars combined forces to create easily the worst film of their careers.

Once again an anxious Ben Stiller is put at odds his former CIA father in-law Robert De Niro, who now hopes that Stiller can take over the family patriarchal reigns as The Godfocker.

This isn't a movie. It's a Focking disgrace. ● PHIL BROWN

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Little Fockers (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:50-1:20-3:30-3:50-6:30-7:20-9:10-9:50
True Grit (14) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:15-3:55-7:9:30

OXFORD THEATRE
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

The King's Speech (STC) Wed 4:15-7:9:40 Thu 1:30-4:15-7:9:40

PARK LANE
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Little Fockers (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:30-3:50-7:9:30
True Grit (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:40-4:10-7:10-9:50

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Little Fockers (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 1:30-3:45-6:50-9:10
True Grit (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed 7:15-9:40 No Passes, Stadium Seating Thu 2:10-4:35-7:15-9:40

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH CROSSING
145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
902-481-3251

Little Fockers (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 1:10-3:55-7:30-10:15
True Grit (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:50-3:30-6:25-9:15

TRURO

TRURO
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

Little Fockers (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:10-6:30-8:50
True Grit (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:05-6:40-9:20

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER
349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Little Fockers (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-3:50-7:25-9:45
True Grit (14) No Passes Wed-Thu 1:20-3:55-6:40-9:15



Lindsay under investigation

Lohan has been undergoing treatment at the Betty Ford Center and its facilities since September

Lindsay Lohan is under investigation for an alleged misdemeanour battery against a female staffer at a rehab facility where the actress is receiving treatment, authorities said yesterday.

Riverside County sheriff's Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela said officers responded to a Betty Ford Center facility in Palm Desert on Dec. 12 shortly after 1 a.m. for an incident involving Lohan.

Valenzuela says a female staffer reported having a dispute with the Mean Girls star and that she wanted to pursue charges. No arrests were made and Valenzuela says detectives continue to look into the case. Their results will be presented to county prosecutors, who will decide whether to file a criminal case, Valenzuela said.

Messages for Lohan's attorney were not immediately returned. An email message seeking comment from a Betty Ford spokesman was not immediately returned, although the facility does not comment on its patients.

A judge overseeing her probation for a 3-year-old drunk driving case has required Lohan to remain at the rehab centre until Jan. 3. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


▶ Lindsay Lohan

Merry Christmas from Simon Cowell

Simon Cowell may not quite understand the Christmas spirit.

British X-Factor judge Louis Walsh reveals that Cowell got all the show's judges the same gift this year: A massive Botox gift certificate.

"On the final he says, 'I've got a present for you three,' and he gives us envelopes," Walsh tells Sharon Osbourne during a TV interview.

"I got home and opened (it) — it's ($4,500) worth of Botox."

Walsh says all three judges got the exact same thing. METRO

News in brief

Franco hates doing what he's told

OSCARS. James Franco has a simple reason for why he's co-hosting the Oscars this year with Anne Hathaway: His agents told him not to. "All my representatives were saying, 'No! Of course not!'" Franco tells Entertainment Weekly. "That always sparks something in me. So I said, 'Yes, of course!' Because that reaction that they have is based on conventional wisdom of what makes a good career. And that can be boring — really boring." METRO

Vaughn, wife welcome baby

BIRTH. Vince Vaughn and wife Kyla welcomed their first child, a girl, earlier this week, Hollyscoop reports. Locklyn Kyla Vaughn came in at seven pounds. "Both of them couldn't be happier to welcome their sweet little girl into their family," a family friend says. METRO

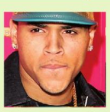
Are Miller and Law set to tie the knot?

Jude Law and Sienna Miller are reportedly so happy together that the previously engaged couple are talking marriage — and maybe as soon as within the next two weeks.

Miller's sister, Savannah Miller confirms to the Daily Mail that the couple have been talking marriage recently, while another source says they may even tie the knot over New Year's in a quiet ceremony.

The pair were previously engaged in 2005 before his cheating scandal forced Sienna to call it off. METRO

Celebrity tweets



Chris Brown
i have enough self respect and decency to be proud of accomplishing this DV class. Boyz run from there mistakes. Men learn from them!!!



Steve Martin [@Steve Martin ToGo]
REPORT FROM JURY DUTY: guy I thought was up for murder turns out to be defense attorney. I bet he murdered someone anyway.



Kirstie Alley
What do I want for Christmas you ask...I want Sanity and Wisdom..what do you want?





3 life

Travel in brief



A new Disney resort will open in phases, starting in May 2012.

The hotel will feature about 2,000 rooms, including 865 standard hotel rooms in Disney's "value" category.

The first phase will be a Finding Nemo-themed wing of suites. Another wing in the Lion King theme will follow. The final phase will feature the Little Mermaid theme.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ScanLife

Investors wanting to build replica of Noah's Ark get preliminary approval for tax breaks.

KEVIN HUTCHINSON



▶ If you're looking for private beaches surrounded by gorgeous scenery, get away from the big resorts and try Mexico's smaller towns.

Small-town Mexico

Southeast of Acapulco, Huatulco is uncluttered and uncrowded This burgeoning resort town is close to no less than 36 untouched beaches

THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA



If you're tired of all those massive Mexican resort towns away from the popular bars and beaches, then small-town Huatulco might just be the perfect place for you.

This burgeoning West Coast resort area southeast of Acapulco is being built from the ground up by the Mexican government, with only about 15 luxury resort hotels surrounded by nine small bays.

That lack of clutter makes for no less than 36 stunning, private, untouched beaches, all around gorgeous scenery you can't find in many Mexican resort towns anymore. Of course, the surrounding natural habitat is all the more wild and untouched, making for some unique adventures.

Finding myself a few hours north of the coast, I felt like I was in the middle of the Amazon. During a gondola ride on secluded La Ventanilla Lagoon, the iguanas, turtles and tropical birds were plentiful, and so were 10-foot-plus crocodiles nudging by our little wooden vessel.

The area is also home to the Mexican turtle centre, where baby sea turtles are hatched and released regularly.

Another hidden treasure worth visiting lies tucked away in the mountains about two hours away from the coast.

The so-called Magic Water Falls are not only beautiful, but legend has it if you bathe in these remote mystical waters, they will magically erase wrinkles and instantly restore a youthful appearance.



▶ Huatulco is surrounded by nine small bays.

If you want to beat the crowds to this obscure paradise, better do it soon. Over the next decade, there are plans to add 10 times the number of hotel rooms to accommodate two million tourists a year.

What to do

- **Visit the Tipsy Blowfish.** Located in quiet La Crucecita, this is one of the funkiest bars in all of Mexico. Take in great live music and easygoing small-town culture in a funky outdoor environment. Be sure to ask owner Texas Joe for some of the coldest beer in town.
- **Go on a Mexican Outback Safari.** One of the newest attractions in Huatulco, this eco-adventure takes you to the heart of the tropical jungle and into far-removed villages. You'll cross mangroves and taste tropical fruit, and cap it off with some snorkelling in the remote fishing village of San Augustin.

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Bunches of punches for your holiday parties

Whether light and fizzy or dense and decadent, there's a punch recipe to complement every soirée

Following the adage that everything old is new again, the hot trend in party drinks this holiday season is punch, served in, you guessed it, a punch bowl.

Various sources say punch was introduced to England from India in the early 17th century and then it spread to other countries. But no matter where it hails from, it's a drink that inspires conviviality through slow sipping around the punch bowl.

The word punch is said to be derived from the Hindustan word "panch," which means "five." This can be traced back to the "rule of five" stating that a punch must have at least five ingredients.

"These must be something sweet, sour, strong, weak and the addition of spices," explains Christopher Freeland, a spokesperson for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario in Toronto.

Tanya Steel, editor-in-chief of Epicurious, says the resurgence of punch may also be a harbinger of the times. "I think punches are a big beverage trend this holiday season because they are festive to look at and imbibe and it enables the host to stretch a little liquor a long way," she said.

Freeland points out that punch "can be a great time saver for the host as it can be made up in advance."

"It also allows the ingredients to marry for a number of hours, giving it more flavour," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stir things up

Here are some tips on preparing punch:

- Estimate the number of servings you will need. Generally punch is served in 125-ml (4-oz) round cups or glasses. Plan for three to four servings per guest.
- Use quality ingredients.
- If garnishing with fruit don't overload the bowl.
- Have as many of the ingredients chilled before beginning to make punch.
- Offer guests a non-alcoholic version of a punch that contains alcohol. The two bowls should be separated and clearly identified.

Source: thatsthespirit.com

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Pear Tree Punch features a flamed orange garnish for a special twist.

Pear Tree Punch

Preparation:

1. In a pitcher, place all ingredients and stir to mix. Pour into punch bowl holding ice.
2. To flame an orange zest: Using a sharp knife, cut an oval tab of zest about one by three inches.
3. With the skin pointing outward bend the oval toward the flame of a lighter over the drink. The flame should ignite the oils which will squirt from the zest. Add the flamed orange peel.

Ingredients :

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) single malt Scotch
- 10 dashes orange bitters or regular bitters
- 750 ml (3 cups) pear juice
- Flamed orange zest, for garnish

Nod to Nog

Preparation:

1. To make vanilla syrup, add equal parts sugar and boiling water to a heatproof vessel, stir to dissolve and let cool. Add 2 to 3 drops of vanilla extract or 1/4 vanilla bean. Stir to mix.
2. Combine ingredients with blender and add to a punch bowl. Keep chilled.
3. Garnish each serving with a pinch of nutmeg.

Ingredients :

- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) Canadian whisky
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) vanilla syrup (see step 1)
- 750 ml (3 cups) cream
- 8 egg whites
- Nutmeg, for garnish

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Homemade vanilla syrup adds a new twist to a holiday favourite.

Ginger Pineapple Punch

Preparation:

1. To make ginger syrup: In a 1- to 1.5-l saucepan, bring water, sugar and ginger to a boil , stirring until sugar is dissolved.
2. Simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, then remove from heat and steep uncovered for 15 minutes.
3. Pour syrup through a sieve into a bowl, discarding ginger. Cover and chill until cold, about 2 hours.
4. To make punch: In a punch bowl or pitcher, stir together ginger syrup and fruit juices. Stir in sparkling water and ice.

Ingredients :

Ginger syrup:

- 375 ml (1 /2 cups) water
- 250 ml (1 cup) sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) thinly sliced fresh ginger (125 g/1/4 lb from two 12-cm/5-inch pieces)

Punch:

- 750 ml (3 cups) unsweetened pineapple juice, chilled
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) fresh lemon juice (3 to 5 lemons)
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) fresh lime juice (4 to 6 limes)
- 750 ml (3 cups) sparkling water, chilled
- 1 l (4 cups) ice cubes
- Lemon/lime slices for garnish

Note: A splash of vodka or gin transforms this lively punch into a festive cocktail.

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Thurs: 10-6
Fri: 10-3 • Sun:11-3
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ISTOCK IMAGES



▶ If a release form is folded up with your pink slip, sign it only after the proper persons have been consulted.

One individual's experience, told here, provides an example of why you should be careful when you call the Ministry of Labour.

Following his termination, Scott Seltzer was given a termination package consisting of a three-week severance payment required by legislation and an offer for an additional payment in exchange for signing a release.

Instead of calling a lawyer, Seltzer called the B.C. Ministry of Labour for advice. Seltzer was told that in B.C. a worker "could not sign their legal rights away," which is technically correct but practically misleading. Each province has legislation that sets out minimum severance. Here, Seltzer was entitled to a minimum payment of three weeks' salary. However, since Seltzer was entitled to more than just the minimum, his employer asked him to sign a release for the additional payments — which is an agreement not to later sue. Although this was an issue that most employment lawyers would spot as a matter of course, the Ministry representative failed to clarify the distinction.

Relying on what he was told, Seltzer mistakenly thought he had nothing to lose by signing the release, believing he could take the extra money and then challenge his employer for more. However, when he later made a human rights complaint, his claim was dismissed at a preliminary hearing because of the release he had signed. Why did this happen and how could it be avoided?

Most provincial employment ministries in Canada have hotlines for employees to call to obtain "information" about their rights. The problem is that this information is often construed as "advice," since advice is often inappropriately dispensed by the ministry representatives who answer the phone. And, since most people will believe, even if incorrectly, that they received advice from a government body, they are unlikely to later pay for a lawyer's time to obtain a second opinion.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

SAINT GEORGES ROUND CHURCH
Advent & Christmas Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 12
Third Sunday in Advent
10:30 am Choral Holy Communion

5:00 pm Evensong with an Advent Meditation

Sunday, Dec. 19
Fourth Sunday in Advent
10:30 am Choral Holy Communion

5:00 pm Evensong with an Advent Meditation

Friday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Children & Families Christmas Pageant *All are welcome to join this service. Children are especially welcome and encouraged to participate in the pageant.*

10:30 pm Special String Music

11:00 pm Choral Holy Communion *Music by Byrd and others*

Saturday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day
10:00 am Morning Prayer

10:30 am Choral Holy Communion *Music by Willan, Cranham, and others*

Sunday, Dec. 26
The Feast of St. Stephen the Martyr
& The Sunday After Christmas
10:30 am Choral Holy Communion

Wednesday, Jan. 5
The Eve of The Epiphany of Our Lord
Choral Holy Communion, Music by Wood, Warlock & others
This service will be followed by a feast and party in the church hall. Please see the website for the time of this service.*

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2222 Brunswick Street, Halifax
Phone: 423-1059
Rector: Father George Westhaver
Interim Choir Director: Eszter Horvath
www.roundchurch.ca

Saint Matthias
6131 Chebucto Rd. at Windsor St.
429-4919

Dec 24th Christmas Eve:
7:00 pm Holy Communion
Book of Common Prayer with special music beginning at 6:30 pm.

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CHRISTMAS EVE - Christ Candle:
4:00pm Family Service
What Happened at Bethlehem? - Rev John E. Boyd
Featuring the participation of children and families

CHRISTMAS EVE: 11pm Communion Service
Candlelight, Carols, Quiet Reflection

SUNDAY SERVICES 10:30AM
Sunday December 26: Celebrating Christmas
Search for the Child - Rev. Renée Clark

www.firstbaptisthalifax.org

St. James
At the Armdale Rotary 477-6770

December 24, Christmas Eve
4:00 pm Holy Communion with children's mini-pageant

10:00 pm Choral Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

December 25, Christmas Day
10:30 am Contemporary (said) Communion service

Sunday December 26, Christmas I
9:30 am Parish Communion Service with Carols (Book of Common Prayer)

West End Baptist Church
1986 Preston St, Halifax

Christmas Eve Family Service
"The Glory of Christmas"
Friday December 24th
5:00pm

We relive the Wonder and Joy of Christmas through a dramatic portrayal of events surrounding the birth of Jesus

Halifax Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
2096 Windsor St
422-9224

Friday December 24
6pm: Live Nativity & Communion

8pm: Communion & Candlelight

Sunday December 26
10am: Hymn Sign

Saint Benedict Roman Catholic Church
45 Radcliffe Dr, Halifax • 443-0725

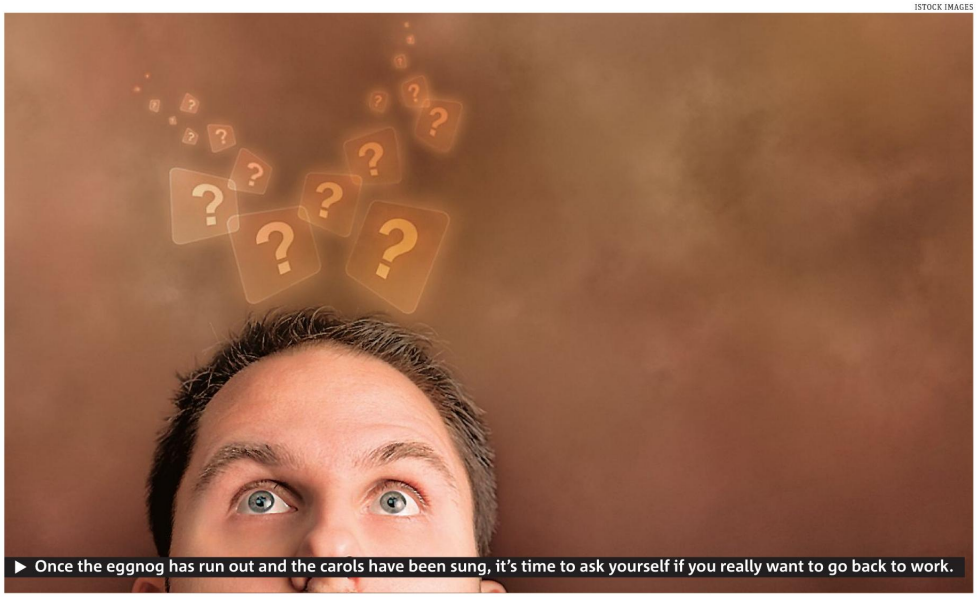
Christmas Mass Schedule
Christmas Eve, Dec 24: 7pm • 9:30pm • 11:30pm
Christmas Day, Dec 25: 9am • 11:15am
Sunday, Dec 26: 9am • 11:15am • 6pm

New Years Day Mass Schedule
Saturday, Jan 1: 9am • 11:15am
Sunday, Jan 2: 9am • 11:15am • 6pm

Does my job bring me joy?

Experts emphasize that now is the best time of year to evaluate your career choices

ISTOCK IMAGES



▶ Once the eggnog has run out and the carols have been sung, it's time to ask yourself if you really want to go back to work.

DREW HINSHAW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

As the stressful season of year-end deadlines and pre-Christmas chaos boils down to a cozy yuletide break, there's no more fitting a moment, career counselors say, to take a pause by the fireside and reflect on whether your daily work is meaningful.

"A rare few people have a real career plan, some people have a vague idea of what they should do, and most people have no formal goals," Executive Coach Jane Cranston says. "It's when they get into their mid-30s that they start asking 'where am I?'"

Better to start contemplating your life goals, she says, on December 30th than your 30th December.

That's true not just because the solstice has a magic for forcing normally rushed professionals to peer backwards at the years gone by – but because the winter months happen to be the prime time window to execute a career swap.

"Believe it or not, December, January and the first half of February are counter-intuitively, the best time to find a new job," Fearless Career Change author Marky Stein notes.

But they're also pretty good months to find the joy in your old job.

Start by using the holiday time, Stein recommends, to ask yourself what's right about your job, moving from basic questions – Does your boss respect you? Do your co-workers understand you? – towards more core considerations, like "Am I proud of what I do?" she suggests.

"Finally, there's the big existential question of 'Would I like to be remembered after my retirement or death as doing the position I am now doing and doing it well?" she offers.

"People have to honestly face that question at one point or another."

A career counselor can help break down that daunting dilemma into a mere challenge.

"We help people set and attain goals," Cranston says. "The evidence is that most people attain more, faster when they have a coach."

Reaching high to score a dream

Ezra Frech won't let a disability stop him from becoming a sporting legend – just like his hero Pau Gasol

ELISABETH BRAW
METRO WORLD NEWS

Ezra Frech and Pau Gasol frequently get together to play basketball, and have plenty of fun doing it. That's somewhat surprising, given that Ezra is a four-year-old with a prosthetic leg, and Gasol is a basketball star — the NBA's best power-forward, to be precise.

But Gasol is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador and has made it his mission in life to help children in his adopted hometown of Los Angeles, where he plays for the Los Angeles Lakers. Sometimes he helps the Los Angeles Fire Department teach children about fire safety, sometimes he visits children in the hospital, and sometimes he plays basketball with Ezra.

The duo spoke with Metro — Ezra about his dreams for the future, and Gasol about his own aspirations he had as a child.

When I grow up:
Frech: I want to be a basketball player for the Los Angeles Lakers. And after that, I want to be a coach. My prosthetic legs work great. In my spare time, I want to be a UNICEF Ambassador like Pau Gasol.
Gasol: It was a dream to become a basketball player, but I was also interested in other things, like science and music. If I hadn't become a basketball player, I would have become a scientist or doctor.

My family will consist of:
Frech: I will marry my beautiful girlfriend Sophia, who I met on the blue playground. We will have three boys and two girls and a golden retriever.
Gasol: I'm a family guy, so I always wanted to have several children, three or so, and a wife. The biggest privilege of my career is that I can serve as a role model for children and inspire them.

I will live in:
Frech: I will live four blocks from Staples Center where the Lakers play. And I will drive a car that turns into a helicopter.
Gasol: I didn't know any place outside of Spain. I wanted to grow up and become famous in my hometown.

My hobbies will be:
Frech: Surfing and playing soccer.
Gasol: I played the piano as a child and still do. I have a piano at home. I play music by the usual classical composers, but right now I have a book of French folk songs I love to play from. When I was little I saw my first opera, Tosca, and it's still my favourite opera.

Happy Holidays



The staff of OLS in Dartmouth wishes you and your family a fun and safe Holiday Season!

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4 sports

'Tis the season for hard work

Rainmen not expecting much of a holiday break with season looming



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

They've come to Halifax from New York, Texas, South Carolina, Maryland and as far away as California. But few, if any, of the newest Halifax Rainmen will travel home for the holidays.

With the Premier Basketball League regular season scheduled to begin on Jan. 2, the Rainmen will be on the court every day except Christmas and Boxing Day.

"Guys realize we're here to win a championship, and so a lot of times when you're playing for a championship, you have to do some sacrificing," said guard Tommy Mitchell, who is from Los Angeles.

"If guys do go home, it may be for a day, but we have business to attend to."

After going 3-1 in the pre-season, the Rainmen are feeling good about things right now, but there's still work to be done. Owner Andre Levingston is still searching for a missing piece or two — namely, a starting centre — and the Rainmen will spend the next few weeks fine-tuning their offence.

"We have to solidify the paint — that's always a work in progress," said Rainmen head coach Les Berry. "The next few weeks, we have to work hard at defending our own paint and we need to get better offensively as far as moving the basketball."

The Rainmen host the Vermont Frost Heaves on Jan. 2 at 3 p.m.

Rainmen stats

POINTS PER GAME, REBOUNDS

	PPG	Reb
JOSH DOLLARD	17.8	6.8
KAVON JONES	16.3	7.8
TALIEK BROWN	14.7	2.7
T. MITCHELL	14.3	3.8
MIKE MERCER	12.3	3.3
TAJUAN PORTER	11.8	3.0
AARON SPEARS*	9.0	6.0
T. ROBERSON	8.3	1.3
E. CROOSHANK	8.0	6.3
M. BROWN	4.5	0.0
CALVIN BROWN	3.3	7.3
DERRICK O'NEILL*	1.5	4.0
CYRIL AWERE*	1.3	1.7
DEVON NORRIS	1.3	0.0

*NO LONGER ON TEAM

12

The Halifax Rainmen trimmed their roster down to 12 yesterday, cutting guard Derrick O'Neill. There could be a new arrival or two before the final roster is pared down to 10.

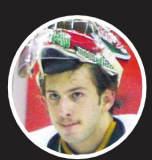
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO



▶ Josh Dollard, right, attacks the hoop during a Halifax Rainmen pre-season game earlier this month.

Sports news

Anthony Terenzio
The Halifax Mooseheads rookie goaltender has been named the Canadian Hockey League's goaltender of the week, a day after being honoured as the QMJHL's first star of the week. Terenzio, from New Canaan, Conn., earned three straight wins, posting a miniscule 0.70 goals-against average and a .971 save percentage.





T.J. Grant
The Cole Harbour mixed martial artist is coming off a tough loss at UFC 124 on Dec. 11, but has signed a new four-fight contract to stay in the UFC. Grant, who is 16-5 overall and currently serving a 30-day medical suspension, has fought six times at the UFC level, winning three and losing three.

Scan for code for more sports

Beaton moves on to Screaming Eagles

Lower Sackville's Alex Beaton was dealt to the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in the lone deal yesterday as a quiet QMJHL trade period continued.

Beaton, a 20-year-old who has 199 games of QMJHL experience, was moved from the Gatineau Olympiques for a package that included 18-year-old forward Felix Bergeron.

The move leaves the Screaming Eagles with four over-agers, with Beaton currently playing for the junior A Woodstock (N.B.) Slammers. He is third in Maritime Junior Hockey League scoring with 60 points in 33 games.

Beaton posted 47 points in his best QMJHL season in 2008-09 with the Lewiston Maineiacs.

Beaton is an insurance policy if Screaming Eagles GM Mario Durocher trades one of his current three over-agers: Defenceman Spencer Metcalfe, forward Taylor MacDougall and goalie Andrew Hayes.

"If we don't (get) the price we want, we're going to keep them because they bring a lot of leadership to our dressing room with our young guys," Durocher said of his current over-agers.

CAPE BRETON POST

Sports in brief



Herd calling on junior A

QMJHL. The Halifax Mooseheads will call up four players from the junior A ranks for their road game against the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in Sydney on Dec. 28.

The Mooseheads, who will be shorthanded with a handful of players away at international tournaments, are bringing up forwards Luke Warner, Andrew Wigginton and Justin Belanger and defenceman Josh Desmond.

Warner and Desmond are 17-year-old rookies who were picked in the 2010 draft; Wigginton and Belanger are 19-year-olds who saw spot duty with the Mooseheads last season. METRO

NHL. Capitals



▶ Andrew Gordon, centre, celebrates with teammates Jason Chimera and Marcus Johansson after scoring his first career goal.

LUIS M. ALVAREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gordon gets his first NHL goal

Porters Lake native Andrew Gordon scored his first career NHL goal in the first period of last night's game against the New Jersey Devils. It was Gordon's eighth career NHL game. The Capitals won 5-1.

Canada answers Swedish challenge

4	1
CANADA	SWEDEN

The Canadian national junior team overcame a stiff challenge from a fast and aggressive Swedish squad, riding goals from Brayden Schenn, Zack Kassian and Ryan Johansen plus a stellar 29-save performance from goaltender Olivier Roy in a 4-1 exhibition win last night.

A patriotic and proud crowd at Toronto's Air Canada Centre went home happy but there was lots for head coach Dave Cameron and his staff to dissect afterwards.

The Canadians have one more warmup game — tomorrow against Finland in Kitchener, Ont. — before opening the world junior hockey championship in Buffalo, N.Y., on Boxing Day against Russia, and there was plenty in their play to tighten up.

Max Friberg scored midway through the third period for Sweden, but Johansen picked a loose puck in front of the net and fired it home at 15:55 to settle things down, and Cody Eakin put it away by scoring into an empty net with 46.1 seconds left.

A night after dismantling a soft Swiss squad 8-0 in Oshawa, Ont., the Canadians were put on their heels by the darting yellow jerseys of a Sweden team that answered every hit and didn't back down an inch.

The Swedes arrived in Toronto missing 10 bags of equipment, and only practised Monday after Hockey Canada sent them on a shopping spree for some replacement gear. But they got their stuff about three hours before gametime and found their legs immediately, using their speed to take away time and space from the Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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5 drive

By comparison

Hyundai Tucson
Base price: $22,800
Sharp-looking second-generation model has become a popular choice.



Jeep Compass
Base price: $17,200
A low price is this small ute's primary appeal. For on-road use only.



WHEELBASE MEDIA

A diet makes you look sporty, even if there's no more muscle



▶ The RVR is 37 centimetres shorter than the standard Outlander. It's definitely a sporty little number, despite what its 143-horsepower four-cylinder engine implies.

This SUV should earn a spot in the big leagues

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

It's not every day that Mitsubishi introduces new models to North America, but it had to happen sooner or later.

Technically, though, the 2011 RVR (called the Outlander Sport in the U.S.) is a spin-off of the current Outlander wagon. In fact, both models use the same platform as the compact Lancer sedan. But with a 37-centimetre reduction in overall length over the Outlander, the RVR actually appears radically different. It's also geared to a different audience and seems destined to fulfill a different mission in life.

Without doubt, the RVR's attractively proportioned shape appears, well, sporty, as opposed to the sheetmetal on the family-values-looking Outlander. In fact, only the senior Outlander's outside mirrors are shared with the upstart. From stem to stern, the design is more cohesive and works well with the Lancer Evolution-style open-mouth nosepiece that Mitsubishi claims was inspired by jet-fighter air intakes.

Naturally, a price must be paid for pruning more than a foot from the RVR's length. The bigger Outlander is available with a third row and the RVR is not. Simple.

Although the cargo hold has been similarly shortened, it remains more than adequate.

If need be, the storage space can be maxed out by folding forward the split 60:40 rear seat.

The five-passenger seating arrangement will suit most needs although we wonder about the polka-dot-like base seat coverings. For drivers, a display screen indicating fuel, outside temperature, odometer reading and other vitals separates the dashboard's large twin gauge pods.

The RVR's thrust is provided by the Lancer-based 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine that makes 148 horsepower and 145 pound-feet of torque.

That's not exactly earth-shattering compared to the Hyundai Tucson's 175-horsepower engine or the Volkswagen Tiguan's 200 turbocharged horses, but it should be enough to make the 1,410-kilogram RVR (about 180 kilograms lighter than the original Outlander) perform in a lively manner.

The RVR's performance might not entirely live up to its sporty intentions (Mitsubishi has more potent four-cylinder engines that it could easily draw upon), but for style and content, this shrink-wrapped wagon should earn a spot in the big leagues.

Mitsubishi RVR

What you should know about the 2011 Mitsubishi RVR:



- **Type:** Four-door compact front- /four-wheel-drive sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC four-cylinder (148).
- **Transmissions:** Five-speed manual; continuously variable (opt.)
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.7/6.4 (MT)
- **Base price:** $23,450 (Including destination).

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Sport Model Shown

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2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland (in White Gold) shown.

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Retailers may sell for less. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2010 and select 2011 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-retailer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your retailer for complete details. ♦The up to $500 First Free Payment Offer includes an amount on account of GST/HST (where applicable) and in the Province of Quebec, GST and QST. Customers may choose to have the up to $500 (including taxes) First Free Payment Offer applied to reduce the selling price after taxes of their new vehicle purchase, rather than to cover their first free payment. Offer is available to all retail customers that purchase a new eligible 2010/2011 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge or Ram from December 1, 2010 through January 3, 2011 (excluding only the following 2010 and 2011 models: Jeep Patriot 4x2/4x4 Sport, Compass 4x2/4x4 Sport, Wrangler 2-Door Sport, Dodge Journey SE, Grand Caravan Cargo Van & Canada Value Package, Caliber CVP & SE Plus, Ram 1500 Regular Cab 4x2/4x4 and Ram Cab and Chassis). †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and Ally Credit Canada on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Example: 2010 Jeep Patriot North Edition 4x4 (26E+AL3) with a Purchase Price of $20,995 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $583.19; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $20,995. 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Examples: 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo (26E/2010 Jeep Patriot North Edition 4x4 (26E+AL3) with a Purchase Price of $36,995/$20,995 (includes $500* First Free Payment Offer) financed at 2.99%/4.99% APR over 60/60 months with payments amortized over 61/87 months equals 130 bi-weekly payments of $233/$133 and one final payment of $10,355/$7,410 for a cost of borrowing of $3,022/$3,642 and a total obligation of $40,617.13/$24,637. Freight ($1,400), taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage and wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges not included. Retailers may sell for less. See participating retailers for complete details. §2010 Jeep Patriot North Edition not available in colour shown. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under licence. ♥Based on Ward's 2010 Middle SUV classification. ◦SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. 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Safety, security and space

Think 'transmission' when shopping for a used Volvo V70


Volvo V70

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Recognized as a world-leader in occupant protection, models from the Volvo brand are often sought out by shoppers prioritizing safety on the move.

Safety is serious business for the Swedes, and a Volvo wagon's always been a sure way to get the wife and kids around with plenty of peace of mind.

The second-generation Volvo V70 was a wagon available to Canadian shoppers from 2001 to 2007 model years inclusive. A more rugged "Cross Country" variant of the V70, called the XC70, was also available. Where confident all-season family travels are concerned, these two machines really hit the mark.

The 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2001 to 2007 Volvo V70/XC70
- **Vehicle Type:** Wagon/crossover wagon
- **Approximate used price range:** $6,000 to $18,000

All models got five-cylinder power from a range of naturally-aspirated and turbocharged engines outputting between 168 and 247 ponies. Manual or automatic transmissions were available, as was All Wheel Drive (AWD), depending on the model in question. Ultimately, the V70, XC70 and even S60 sedan in this generation shared virtually the same hardware under their skin.

Inside, look for flexible interior space, a generous cargo hold and plenty of storage to keep occupants organized. Volvo wagons are known for a solid, quiet ride and bolted-down feel of security and plantedness, and this generation is no exception.

What Owners Like

Comfort, handling and security are all highly rated by owners, as is interior space, design, and drivetrain refinement.

What Owners Hate

Some owners report that careful and light-footed driving is required to achieve good mileage. Owners of models with the lower-output powerplants typically wish for more performance.

Common Issues

Considering a used Volvo wagon in this generation? Think "transmission". Numerous owners have reported gearbox issues that have required replacement, sometimes more than once. This well-documented problem means ensuring proper transmission integrity is vital to a successful purchase.

The Verdict

To the majority of V70s and XC70 owners, the driving experience and confidence more than compensate for potential issues. All said, used shoppers should shop patiently and carefully, get service records and look for a model that's familiar to their local Volvo dealer. Be sure to snatch up any extended powertrain warranties that may be available.

Just to be safe.

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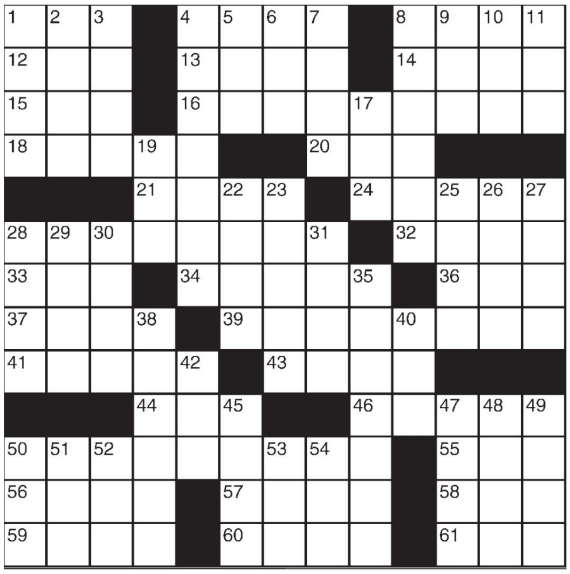
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Crossword



Across

1 Request
4 Movie pig
8 Interoffice note
12 Writer Buscaglia
13 In due time
14 Ahmadinejad's land
15 Coffee vessel
16 Runner
18 Source of igneous rock
20 Spotted
21 Spheres
24 Parade
28 Confirm
32 Harvard rival
33 — carte
34 Baghdad resident
36 Sailor
37 Hard work
39 Flood
41 Rio Grande feeder
43 Casino cubes
44 Poolroom tool
46 Robbery
50 Convert to cash
55 "— Town"
56 Burden
57 Grand tale
58 Pugilists' org.
59 Summertime pest
60 Bottle part
61 Cleopatra's slayer

Down

1 Astringent
2 Antitoxins
3 "King —"
4 Rival of Captain Morgan
5 Santa —
6 "— voyage!"
7 Concludes
8 Carnival area
9 Historic period
10 Wrestling surface
11 Inseparable
17 "— the Walrus"
19 Miss Piggy's pronoun
22 Adriatic Sea port
23 Leave one's seat
25 Sitar music
26 Coagulate
27 "... oh, where can —?"
28 Seductress
29 Burn remedy
30 Secular
31 Iso-
35 Restrained
38 Grasshopper's cousin
40 Cee follower
42 — generis
45 Paradise
47 Corn Belt state
48 Second-stringers
49 Snare
50 Journal
51 Hostel
52 Sine-non link
53 Mimic
54 Twitch

▶ Yesterday's answer

C	R	A	B	■	D	E	A	R	■	T	W	A
M	O	N	O	■	O	G	R	E	■	W	I	G
T	W	I	N	P	E	A	K	S	■	O	N	E
■	■	■	B	A	R	D	■	T	U	S	K	S
D	E	P	O	T	■	■	F	A	M	E	■	■
I	R	A	N	■	S	T	A	R	W	A	R	S
P	S	I	■	L	E	A	S	T	■	T	A	I
S	E	R	G	E	A	N	T	■	C	E	N	T
■	■	E	L	A	N	■	■	F	O	R	T	E
A	D	D	O	N	■	B	A	U	M	■	■	■
L	E	O	■	D	O	U	B	L	E	B	E	D
O	A	F	■	E	D	G	E	■	L	I	L	Y
E	L	F	■	R	E	S	T	■	Y	O	K	E

Sudoku

2		7	6		5	4		9
		3				7		
4	1						6	3
			5		2			
	6						5	
			8		1			
9	7						2	1
		4				8		
8		2	7		6	9		4

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	2	8	9	6	4	1	7	5
1	4	7	2	5	3	8	9	6
9	6	5	7	8	1	4	2	3
8	3	2	4	7	9	6	5	1
6	5	1	3	2	8	7	4	9
4	7	9	6	1	5	3	8	2
5	8	3	1	4	2	9	6	7
7	1	4	5	9	6	2	3	8
2	9	6	8	3	7	5	1	4

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Happy Birthday Steve!!! I hope you have a great day! Hopefully this year will be full of luck and happiness! I love you very much, (gach la). Will you marry me? **KRISTEN XOXO**

My Bella, In you I have found the love of my life. My heart skips a beat when you're near, and I am nothing but thankful for having you to share with. Looking forward to a wonderful future with you. Truly, madly, deeply, **CHRIS**

L.L. My darling, wanted to remind you how much I care for you, how happy I am to have you in my life, and that I look forward to every passing day with you. Loving you endlessly, **R.B.**

Dear Kimmy, Ever since I first laid my eyes upon you, I have been living on cloud nine. I can't wait to wake up every morning next to you for the rest of my life. Love, **KARL.**

Today 3°/1° Rain 90%

Thursday 2°/-1° Rain and snow 70%

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Are the conclusions you have reached about a certain situation your own conclusions, or are they ideas you have picked up from other people or from the media? Think for yourself today.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 You may be tempted to do something that will gain you an advantage over your rivals, but is it ethical? If not you are strongly advised to play by the rules.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Just because the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence does not mean you have been moving in the wrong direction. All roads eventually lead to where you most need to go.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 An idea or belief you have always taken for granted is beginning to show signs of wear and tear. Maybe it's time to replace it with something a bit more up to date.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 A relationship is at a turning point and what happens today or tomorrow will seal its fate one way or the other. It may not be easy to call it a day but if that's what your heart tells you then what choice do you have?

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Mercury, your ruler, is at right angles to Jupiter today, which means you will need to make an extra effort to get your message across. Make sure you shout at the right people.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 History always repeats itself, so if what you see or hear reminds you of the past make sure you act on that knowledge.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Your trust in someone has taken a bit of a nose-dive in recent weeks and what happens today is unlikely to change your opinion that they don't know what they are doing. Keep your distance. Stupidity can be contagious.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Take what you hear from a colleague or friend with a large pinch of salt. Mind planet Mercury, at odds with your ruler Jupiter, warns they don't know what they are talking about.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Take the chance to go back and take care of something you should have dealt with a long time ago. If you still can't get it right then maybe it's just too much for you. Do something else.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You may be at a loss to explain why a friend or relative is acting so strangely but you know how illogical some people can be. Not everyone shares your ability to focus only on facts.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Hopefully you know how to keep a secret, because if you go blabbing about a friend's peccadilloes it will be you who ends up looking bad.

● SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

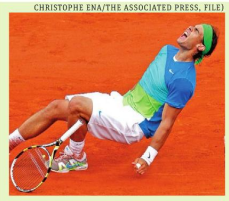


WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE)



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2010 ELANTRA

2.0 L, 138 hp, 16-valve DOHC, 4-cylinder engine
4-wheel Disc Brakes, 15-inch Steel Wheels
AM/FM/CD/MP3/Aux. Plug/USB Port 4-speaker
Audio System, Power Windows with Driver's
Auto-down, Tinted Glass, Rear: 60/40 Split
Fold-down, Dual Front Airbags

$82* BI WEEKLY



FREE WINTER
TIRE PACKAGE
4 WINTER TIRES
ICE SCRAPER
WASHER FLUID

ADD $8 B/W FOR A/C

50 BEST MANAGED COMPANIES

O'REGAN'S
DRIVING HIGHER STANDARDS

DARTMOUTH
HYUNDAI

60 BAKER DRIVE, UNIT - D
oreganshyundaidartmouth.com
465-7500

*Vehicle not exactly as shown. Freight and taxes are not included.
See O'Regan's Dartmouth Hyundai for details.